

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2511

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ZA

SUBJECT: INCONSISTENCIES IN ZAMBIAN FOREIGN POLICY

AFFECTING UNITED STATES

1. IN MEETING WITH MARK CHONA OF STATE HOUSE AT HIS REQUEST DEC 23 ON ANGOLAN QUESTION (SEPTTEL), I TOOK INITIATIVE TO RAISE WITH HIM FACT OF OUR IMPROVED AND CLOSER RELATIONS WITH REGARD TO POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BUT CONCERN OVER WIDENING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND US OVER GRZ POSITIONS AT UN (E.G., PUERTO RICO, GUAM, AND OTHER SOVIET-CUBAN INTERESTS) IN ADDITION TO IRRITANT IN OUR RELATIONS FROM BIASED ANTI-US POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED ZAMBIAN MEDIA.

2. I SPECIFICALLY DREW ATTENTION TO AMB KAMANA'S STATEMENT ON HIS RETURN TO LUSAKA FROM UN WHICH CALLED FOR CONDEMNATION OF US AND SOVIETS FOR INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA WHICH I FOUND AT COMPLETE VARIANCE WITH OFFICIAL ZAMBIAN POSITION FROM STATE HOUSE. I WAS ALSO CRITICAL OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER KAMANGA'S ANTI-US STATEMENT ON FRONT PAGE OF TODAY'S TIMES FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM CUBA (LUSAKA'S 2510). IT HAD BEEN MY IMPRESSION KAMANGA HAD GONE TO CONGRESS OF CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY IN HAVANA MAINLY AS A BLIND TO APPEAL TO CASTRO'S GOVERNMENT TO GET OUT OF ANGOLA. FINALLY I DREW
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ATTENTION TO RECENT BIASED TIMES EDITORIAL WHICH DAMNED

CIA ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA.

3. CHONA WAS VISIBLY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THIS FRANK CRITICISM AND PROMPTLY ADMITTED THERE HAD BEEN INCONSISTENCIES AND BRIEFING GAP IN ZAMBIA'S FOREIGN POLICY AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION. HE IMPLIED KAMANGA WOULD BE SET STRAIGHT BY PRES KAUNDA HIMSELF WHEN KAMANGA GOES TO PRESIDENT'S HOLIDAY RETREAT IN NORTHERN PROVINCE TO BRIEF HIM ON CUBAN TRIP.

4. AS FOR ZAMBIA'S DOUBLE FACE, ONE IN UN IN SUPPORT OF SOVIET-SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS AND ANOTHER WHICH SHOWS IN WASHINGTON AND LUSAKA, CHONA APOLOGETICALLY SAID THAT WHEN A COUNTRY MOVES "FROM A NEGATIVE TO A POSITIVE POSITION" IN ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ANY COUNTRY THERE ARE BOUND TO BE DISJUNCTURES AND LAPSES. HE FIRMLY PROMISED "1976 WILL BE QUITE DIFFERENT".

5. LATER CHONA PHONED ME AT CHANCERY TO SAY HE HAD SPOKEN WITH EDITOR OF TIMES REGARDING OFFENDING ARTICLE ON CIA AND GOTTEN AN APOLOGY FROM HIM FOR LATEST IN SERIES OF UNBALANCED EDITORIALS WHERE US FLAYED AND SOVIETS LEFT UNTOUCHED. CHONA AGREED TIMES HAD BEEN UNFAIR, "EVERYONE HAS INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, ESPECIALLY THEM (REFERENCE TO SOVIETS) WHOSE NUMBER ARE MANY IN ZAMBIA, SOME OF WHOM HAVE EVEN BEEN EXPELLED, SO WHY SHOULD PRESS SINGLE OUT THOSE OF ONE COUNTRY." HOWEVER, EDITOR HAD TOLD CHONA HIS JOB WOULD BE EASIER IF US PRESS NOT SO DEVASTATING ON CIA; AFTER ALL HE WAS IN MANY INSTANCES ONLY REPEATING WHAT CAME OVER WIRE SERVICES. CHONA STRONGLY SUGGESTED USG CONSIDER "NOT TAKING IT ON THE CHIN" BUT RETURN THE PSYCHOLOGICAL WAREFARE VOLLEYS AGAINST SOVIETS WHO VERY BUSY AT THIS GAME LOCALLY AND ELSEWHERE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO PERSUADE LOCAL EDITORS TO PLAY FAIR BUT HAVE NO RPT NO INTENTION OF ENGAGING IN SLUGGING MATCH WITH SOVIETS IN LOCAL PRESS.
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